

***Ochthebius bruesi* Darlington in California and Utah**

(Coleoptera : Hydraenidae)

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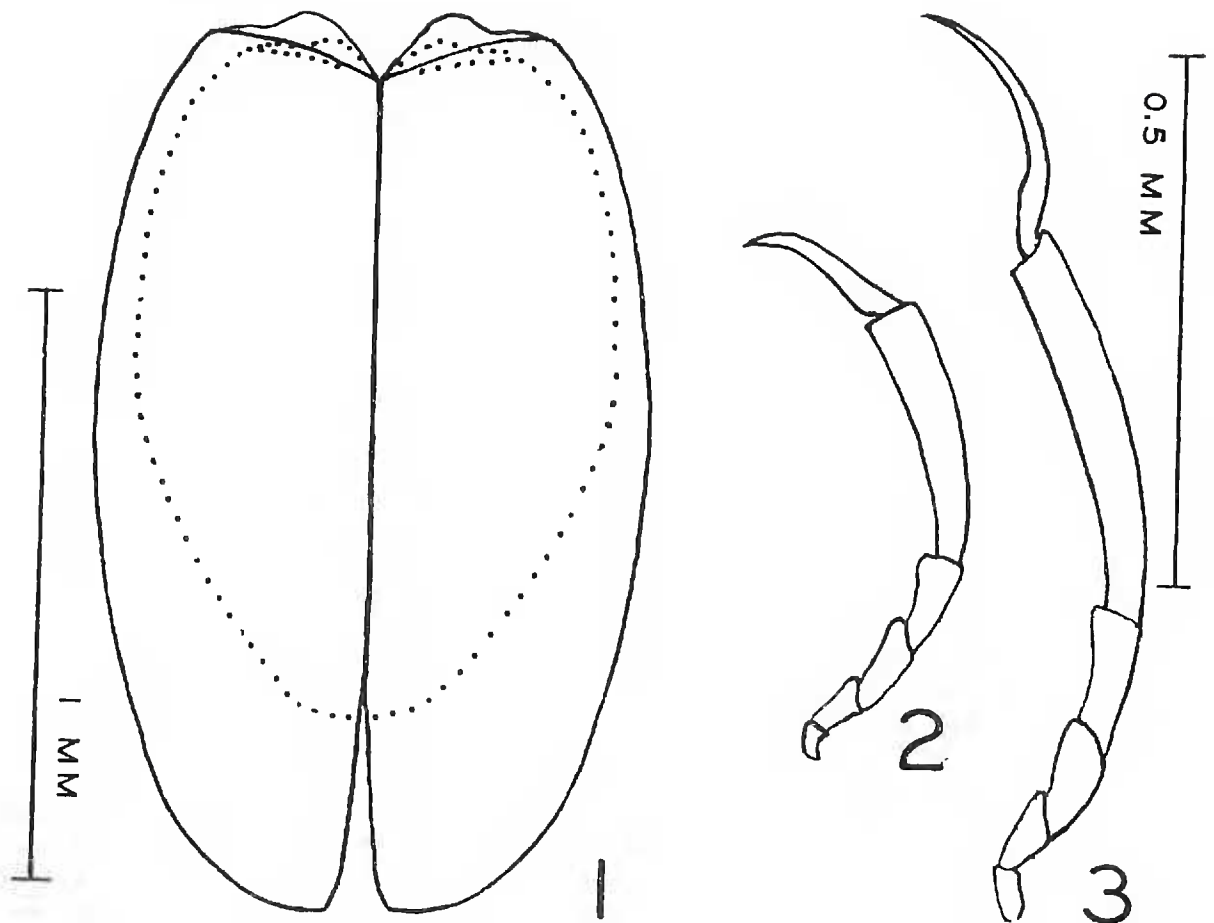
Ochthebius bruesi Darlington is a tiny, elongate beetle occurring in thermal and other springs and in adjacent waters. The elytra vary in color from piceous to testaceous with piceous humeri and base, usually with faint metallic reflections. The species was described in 1928 from material collected by C. T. Brues at a hot spring about 7 miles south of Beowawe, Nevada (type and 24 paratypes); one additional paratype was from a hot spring at Amedee, California, near the eastern border of Honey Lake in Lassen County.

In his report on the fauna of the hot springs he had studied, Brues (1928: 176) cited the Beowawe locality only. In a later paper (1932: 26) he again listed *O. bruesi* from Beowawe, and also from hot springs near Cortez, Nevada and Cedarville, California, as well as from a cool spring near Soldier Meadows, Nevada. To the best of my knowledge it has not been reported since then.

Unfortunately, I overlooked the above California records and did not include *O. bruesi* in my key to the species of the state (Leech and Chandler, 1956: 333). It will trace there to *O. interruptus* LeConte, so the following modification of the key is suggested.

11. Lateral thoracic foveae united into a sinuate line on each side of median impression [Fig. 13: 29c of 1956 paper]; southwest U. S.
*lineatus* LeConte, 1852
 Lateral foveae not united [Fig. 13: 25d]11a
- 11a. Elytra elongate, somewhat parallel-sided (Fig. 1, solid lines); tarsi unusually elongate (Fig. 3). In hot springs and spring-fed waters, northern Utah and Nevada, eastern California..... *bruesi* Darlington, 1928
 Elytra less elongate, more broadly ovate (Fig. 1, dotted outline); tarsi of normal length for the Nearctic species of the genus (Fig. 2). Western U. S.; San Diego, California is type locality.....
*interruptus* LeConte, 1852

In addition to topotypic paratypes, specimens of *O. bruesi* have been seen from Saltair, on the shore of Great Salt Lake due west of Salt Lake City, Utah, 15 July 1941 (H. P. Chandler); Travertine Hot Springs, 2 miles southeast of Bridgeport, Mono County, California, altitude 6,700 feet, 11 August 1962 and 15 August 1963 (H. B. Leech); and the spring-fed east shore of freshwater South Francis (or Grimshaw) Lake, Tecopa, Inyo County, California, 24 March 1964 (H. B.



Figs. 1-3. *Ochthebius bruesi* and *O. interruptus*, elytra and tarsi. Fig. 1, outline of elytra of *O. bruesi* (solid lines), and of *O. interruptus* (dotted lines); Fig. 2, mesotarsus of *O. interruptus*; Fig. 3, mesotarsus of *O. bruesi*.

Leech)—but not in nearby North Francis Lake, which is strongly mineralized.

The Travertine Hot Springs mentioned above is the type locality for a new species of *Hygrotus* (Dytiscidae) and has been treated in some detail, with photographs, in another paper (Leech, 1966, in press). *Hygrotus thermarum* (Darlington) is there recorded from southern Oregon, and *O. bruesi* should be looked for in the same waters.

Following his description of *O. bruesi*, Darlington remarked on the peculiar flattening of one side of the enlarged pseudobasal segment of the maxillary palpi in some specimens. I have seen a male paratype with a label in Darlington's script reading "palpi both flat." When this beetle was put in hot water for a few minutes the palpi showed normal rotundity, but as it dried out again the pseudobasal segments became somewhat flattened. Since none of the Utah and California specimens show the deformity, it is probably simply a structural collapse, the result of slight immaturity or of storage in alcohol after being collected.

LITERATURE CITED

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***Toxonothrips gramineae*, a Rare Thrips Rediscovered in
Western North America**

(Thysanoptera : Thripidae)

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One of the rarest western thrips known to us has been *Toxonothrips gramineae* Moulton. We had searched for it many years with no success (Bailey, 1957). In 1946, Post (1961) collected two specimens in Oregon on sorrel, *Rumex acetosella* L., which he named *Toxonothrips gramineae fuscus*. This stimulated us to try to find *T. gramineae* on this plant as well as on "grass," the host plant of the type specimens taken at Lake Tahoe. However, our results were negative. The next finding was made by Professor Carl H. Lindroth of the Zoological Institute, Lund, Sweden. He made a small collection of thrips near Kodiak, Alaska, 17 June 1962, by sweeping *Carex* and *Calamagrostis* at the margin of a lake. Among the specimens was one apterous female of *T. gramineae*. In 1962, also, H. H. Keifer collected a long series of both sexes in August and September at Battle Creek, Mineral, California, on *Carex nudata* (plants determined by John Thomas Howell, California Academy of Sciences). Again, in 1964, Keifer collected this rare thrips at Camp Sacramento a short distance west of the type locality. Since *Carex* appears to be the preferred host, additional